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# **What Is Japan Fighting For?**

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## **THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SINO-JAPANESE CONFLICT**

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Japanese Association of America  
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## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SINO-JAPANESE CONFLICT

### 1. Chaos in China

When the Boxer uprising occurred in 1900, the imminent danger of massacre of foreign residents in North China was only averted by the allied armies of the Powers concerned. A result of this affair was the conclusion of the Boxer Protocol by which the Powers, including America and Japan, were authorized to station troops in Peiping and Tientsin areas. In addition to these troops, foreign Powers maintain naval forces and detachments of marines in Shanghai and other points on the sea coast, as well as in the Yangtze River, to protect the safety of their respective nationals. They hold extraterritorial rights and maintain settlements in which Chinese jurisdiction over foreign nationals is excluded. Foreign Powers still exercise these rights because China has not as yet attained a state of organized national control capable of according protection to life and property of foreign nationals. Except in a few cities like Shanghai, peace and order in the interior of China has incessantly been disturbed by internal



feuds among war-lords as well as chaos due to banditry. There have frequently occurred untoward incidents in which foreign nationals were subjected to violence even by Chinese military forces. The most significant of these was the Nanking affair of 1927. Lawless elements in the National Revolutionary Army, then under the command of Chiang Kai-shek, attacked and looted foreign consulates in Nanking, and subsequently American and British gunboats bombarded the city. Thus, in China it has been evident that foreign Powers have had to resort to their own forces to protect the safety of their nationals.

## **2. Revolutionary Foreign Policy of the Nanking Government**

The foreign policy of the Nanking Government and the Nationalist Party has been guided by the ideology of the so-called anti-imperialism movement and propaganda for the immediate abolition of the so-called unequal treaties, thus imperiling the legitimate rights and interest of the foreign Powers in China. To attain their ends, the Chinese have resorted to unilateral and direct action, instead of peaceful diplomatic methods. Acting upon this principle, they started in 1927 a vigorous anti-British movement which caused bitter conflict with England. In recent years the same movement has turned toward Japan with increasing severity.

The method of the anti-Japanese campaign of the Nanking Government and the Nationalist Party is systematic. Anti-Japanism is taught in schools, from grammar school to college. Enmity against Japan is inculcated in the minds of the Chinese soldiers. Student, civic, vocational and other groups have been organized for anti-Japanese activity. The anti-Japanese leaders have thus inflamed enmity against Japan among the Chinese populace. Boycotting of Japanese goods ensued. Numerous instances occurred in which Japanese were assaulted or murdered. Chinese high officials who desired peaceful relations with Japan were sometimes subjected to terrorism and even murder by radical elements.

## **3. Fascistic Anti-Japanese Movement**

Among those in the Nationalist Party who take a leading part in the anti-Japanese campaign is an organization called the Blue Shirts. In 1931 a group of young military officers, graduates from the Whampao Military Academy in Canton, secretly organized a society named the Blue Shirts and offered the leadership to their former director of the academy, Chiang Kai-shek. The Society backs the establishment of the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek, foments anti-Japanese activity and demands war with Japan. Its membership totals more than 10,000. It now holds key positions in the Nationalist Party, the Administration



and the Army. It has overwhelming power in the ranks of the armies of the Nanking Government, and the Peace Preservation Corps, the armed police force.

#### **4. Communistic Anti-Japanese Movement**

While directly opposed to the Blue Shirts from a political standpoint, the Communist Party of China, under direct control of the Third International in Moscow, has stronger influence with the Chinese populace in its anti-Japanese campaign. The Communist Party of China was inaugurated at Shanghai in September, 1920. It is a well-known fact that the Northern expedition of the Nationalist Revolutionary Army, the forerunner of the present Nanking Government, which started from Canton in 1926, attained success through the support, financial as well as military, of the Third International. The revolutionary theory and methods of the Nationalist Party have much in common with the teachings of the Third International in Moscow.

After having contended with the Nationalist Party for political supremacy in 1927, the Communist Party started to organize its own "Red" army in order to sovietize China. In November of that year a Soviet Government of the Chinese Republic was first established in Juichin, Kiangsi Province. There are now more than 200,000 communist soldiers scattered in various parts of China. The main force

numbers 100,000 and is centered in the northwestern part of China. Apart from Outer Mongolia and Sinkiang, or Chinese Turkestan, now under the complete control of the Soviet Russia, a vast area in Shensi and Kansu Provinces extending over 150,000 square miles, constitutes the territory dominated by the Soviet Government of the Chinese Republic.

At the Seventh World Congress of the Third International held in Moscow in the summer of 1935, it was decided that the anti-imperialistic movement should be concentrated upon Japan. According to this resolution, the Communist Party of China organized a movement whereby a United Front was to carry out more aggressive anti-Japanese campaign. It must be added that since the Sian incident, in which Chiang Kai-shek was kidnaped by the army of Chang Hsueh-liang in December, last year, the relations between the Nanking Government and the Communist Party have gradually become closer and on more friendly terms.

#### **5. Direct Causes of the Present Conflict**

It is but natural to expect that assault, murder and similar untoward incidents affecting Japanese nationals would increase during the past two years and it was this state of affairs that provoked the present con-



flict. On the night of July 7th of this year a small unit of Japanese soldiers was suddenly attacked by the Chinese troops in the vicinity of Lukouchiao, a few miles southwest of Peiping, while they were engaged in their usual maneuvers under the authorization of the international agreement of 1902. Meanwhile in Shanghai the safety of Japanese nationals became endangered because the Nanking Government was centering armed forces in the demilitarized zone in violation of the Shanghai Truce Agreement of 1932, concluded between Japan and China and countersigned by the representatives of America, Great Britain, France and Italy. On August 9th, an officer and an orderly of the Japanese naval landing force were murdered and mutilated by a Chinese armed force when they were driving an official car on regular inspection duty on the International Settlement extension where Chinese jurisdiction is excluded. A few days later, the Chinese military force opened fire on the Japanese naval landing force in the Japanese residential section of Shanghai and on August 14th, the Chinese Army started an aerial bombardment upon Japanese men-of-war, the Headquarters of the Japanese landing force and the building of the Consulate General, thus precipitating the present Shanghai conflict.

## 6. Japan's Desire for Peace

From the outset of the trouble in North China, the Japanese Govern-

ment has endeavored to reach a peaceful settlement, but such efforts have been ignored by the Nanking Government. In view of the growing anti-Japanese agitation and the imminent danger to the safety of Japanese residents throughout China, the Japanese Government ordered their nationals to evacuate as a precautionary measure to avert any recurrence of untoward incidents. Japanese nationals, numbering over 50,000, have been evacuated from many parts of China, except from Shanghai and a few other points, leaving behind investments and business interests built up after many years of arduous toil.

The Sino-Japanese hostilities now cover a wider range notwithstanding the attempt on the part of Japan to localize the fighting. The Japanese forces were obliged to attack military works and establishments in such points as Nanking and Canton. However, the rumors that the Japanese army attacked and murdered indiscriminately large numbers of innocent Chinese civilians and non-combatants are entirely unfounded. These are simply parts of an insidious propaganda carried on with the sinister intention of creating ill-will toward Japan in the minds of the American people. Japan is not fighting the Chinese people but rather with the Nanking Government controlled by those who have provoked hostilities.

Japan's position in the present conflict is to protect legitimate rights and interests. She is fighting for the purpose of defending her economic



existence. She has vital interests on the Asiatic mainland as her investment amounts to \$1,400,000,000 or 80 per cent of her total foreign investment. It is her earnest desire that China abandon once and for all the anti-Japanese revolutionary policy which is threatening Japan's existence and which is essentially an aspect of anti-foreignism, with communistic influence in the background.

If this can be accomplished, Sino-Japanese relations will be on a basis of permanent peace built upon the foundation of the mutual economic inter-dependence of the two nations.





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